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URGENT INFORMATION

With Log #2642

March 27, 1972

Noted by HAK

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Bahr -- Additional Information

State has sent you a good assessment of the political scene in West Germany (Tab A, which will be useful as background for tomorrow's meeting. State analyzes why the Baden-Wuerttemberg elections on April 23 will be crucial for the Eastern Treaties, points out that Washington support will help Brandt's current pose of confidence, and predicts that the treaties will squeak through.

Press stories which agree on the importance of the B-W elections also say that Barzel is becoming reluctant to use the treaty issue to topple Brandt. Polls showing that support for the treaties is holding up in Baden-Wuerttemberg and the clear support for ratification abroad supposedly have brought him to look for other issues -- e. g., Buadestag votes on the 1972 budget -- ~~On~~ on a motion to postpone consideration of the treaties, for instance. Both the CDU and the FDP, which fears for its existence, are reportedly against new national elections, now or soon.

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Soviet ActionsSECRET

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Bahr's Activities

As part of his effort with the Soviets, Bahr is reported by the West German press to have met secretly in Berlin about two weeks ago with the Soviet Ambassador to the GDR, Yefremov, and his Embassy Counselor for Berlin affairs.

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ADDENDUM: [redacted] spokesman Won Wechmar has announced that Bahr's talks in Washington will be "at the invitation of the American government. A Foreign Ministry spokesman added that most American papers believe if the treaties are not ratified the West's entire detente policy will be endangered. He singled out Marguis Child's column in the March 24 Washington Post in favor of ratification as probably reflecting US government opinion.

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